

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Devos et al. in view of Leys et al., Brody and Onodera.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an anesthesia manifold comprising a plurality of individual valve components which are assembled into a single, multi-valve manifold, each of said plurality of individual valve components having an open operative orientation and a second operative orientation which is pressure responsive for flow into said multi-valve manifold and closed to flow from said multi-valve manifold.

Support for claim 1 as amended can be found in the summary of the invention, on page 4 of the application as filed.

Additionally, Applicants have added new claims 2 – 3. Support for claims 2 and 3 can be found at page 4 of the application as filed, at lines 3 – 10. Support for claims 4 and 5 can be found at page 31 of the application as filed, at lines 23 – 25. Support for claim 6 can be found at Figures 39A – 39C and the description thereof. Support for claim 7 can be found at Figures 38A – 38D and the description thereof. Support for claim 8 can be found at page 38 of the application as filed, at lines 10 – 13.

Devos et al describes: “A manifold has a manifold body defining a fluid flow pathway therethrough. The manifold body has a plurality of valves, at least one of which is a check valve ... By being positioned within the manifold body, the check valve is reinforced and stabilized within the manifold” (Abstract).

Leys et al describes: “A 3-way valve for controlling the flow between first and second ports and a common port. The 3-way valve comprising a valve body having an

integral flow portion and a valve stem having first and second valve members... The valve stem operates between a first position where fluid is allowed to flow between the common port and the second port and a second position where fluid is allowed to flow between the common port and the first port" (Abstract).

Brody describes: "The multi-ported valve assembly includes a valve body having a plurality of individual ports disposed in a common plane and a common port having its axis disposed perpendicularly to the common plane of the individual ports. The valve assembly includes a selector means having a body portion designed to engage the valve body and provide selective communication between one of the individual ports and the common port" (Abstract).

Oroderra describes: "A multi-way cock comprises a housing including a cylinder having a plurality of branch tubes extending from the periphery thereof, and a plug including a barrel adapted to be rotatably fitted in the cylinder and having a corresponding plurality of channels formed therein, the channels corresponding to the branch tubes in assembled condition" (Abstract).

None of the prior art, alone or in combination shows or suggests "An anesthesia manifold, comprising a plurality of individual valve components which are assembled into a single, multi-valve manifold, each of said plurality of individual valve components having an open operative orientation and a second operative orientation which is pressure responsive for flow into said multi-valve manifold and closed to flow from said multi-valve manifold" as recited in amended claim 1.

With reference to the above discussion, independent claim 1 is deemed patentable over the prior art of record and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 2-8 depend directly or ultimately from the above mentioned independent claim and recite additional patentable subject matter and therefore are deemed patentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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